

# THE LEISURE HOUR.

A FAMILY JOURNAL OF INSTRUCTION AND RECREATION.

"BEHOLD IN THESE WHAT LEISURE HOURS DEMAND,—AMUSEMENT AND TRUE KNOWLEDGE HAND IN HAND."—*Courper.*



THE SQUIRE IS FOUND IN THE PRESERVES WOUNDED.

## THE FRANKLINS;

OR, THE STORY OF A CONVICT.

CHAPTER XIII.—PRINCIPALLY FORENSIC.

THE preceding chapters of our narrative have been occupied by the events of a single day; but we propose now to pass over an interval of several weeks.

The winter assizes of the county had commenced, and the town of H. was in one of its periodical phases of bustle and excitement. An unusual degree of interest was attached to this particular occasion, as a trial of somewhat extraordinary importance was expected to

occupy the attention of the judge and jury, and the public at large.

As the time drew near, therefore, for the opening of the court, the entrance to the Town Hall was thronged with impatient spectators and auditors; and five minutes after the doors were opened, the entire space set apart for the public was densely crowded.

Omitting notice of the entrance of the judge, the swearing in of the jury, *grand* and *petit*, the usual proclamation against vice and so forth, and other preliminary proceedings, also of one or two cases of small importance, which, to the satisfaction of the audience, were

rapidly disposed of, we come to the great and important trial of the day.

A true bill having already been found by the grand jury against William Franklin, for unlawfully wounding and maliciously attempting to slay Miles Oakley, of Oakley, gentleman, etc., the prisoner was placed at the bar, and being duly arraigned and invited to plead, he, in a low tone of voice, declared himself to be Not Guilty.

Referring to certain reports of the trial, published or otherwise, we may remark that a slight sensation, amounting almost to disappointment, was experienced by some in court when it was found that the prisoner, so far from being of a very truculent and vicious and forbidding countenance, was remarkably prepossessing and intelligent in appearance, without a trace of savagery discernible in any feature. A shade of melancholy, amounting almost to an impression of grief, was, moreover, detected in his looks by some acute observers; and this, added to the pallor resulting from long and irksome confinement in an unwholesome prison, was said to enlist in the prisoner's favour the feelings of certain ladies who were accommodated with seats on the left hand of the judge's bench. These feelings, however, appeared to subside, as one fact after another, bearing unfavourably against the prisoner at the bar, was clearly established.

The prosecution was conducted by an eminent and learned member of the bar, and the prisoner was assisted in his defence by another no less eminent and learned member of the bar.

The counsel for the prosecution opened the proceedings. He rose, he said, under the sense of a heavy weight of responsibility. It was not for him to prejudice the minds of the intelligent jury whom he had the honour of addressing, against the unhappy prisoner at the bar; nay, he desired to impress it upon the gentlemen who composed that jury, that it was their duty, as far as possible to dismiss from their minds all thought, knowledge, or opinion of the case which they might previously have entertained, and to be guided to their verdict by the evidence which would presently come before them. At the same time he would remind them—though it was doubtless superfluous—as he would also remind himself, that they and he had a public duty to perform, paramount to all subordinate considerations, and that if it should be proved, as he had not the slightest doubt would be proved, that the prisoner at the bar had been guilty of the most malicious, the most blood-thirsty, the most inveterately-determined—ay, gentlemen—the most diabolical, outrageous, and murderous assault and attempted homicide for which he was indicted, it would be their duty to declare this conviction by their verdict, although that verdict should consign the unhappy prisoner to the heaviest penalty of the justly-offended law.

This exordium over, and the gentlemen of the jury having been propitiated, as it was intended they should be, by an appeal to their superior intelligence, the eminent and learned member of the bar went on to give an outline of the accusations against the prisoner, as instructed by the brief he held in his hand. It would be seen, he said, and proved by witnesses whom he should presently call, that the prisoner had harboured in his mind the most undeserved but inveterate enmity against the gentleman whose life he had attempted. And with regard to that gentleman, it did not need his weak eulogiums to convince the gentlemen of the jury that his decease, under any circumstances, would have to be regarded as a public and even a national calamity, while his death by the sudden stroke of an assassin would be

too horrible for the imagination to dwell upon. That stroke had been averted by a merciful Providence, and the honourable individual yet lived to be an ornament to the land in which he was a conspicuously bright example of every public and private virtue; a pattern to those of his own rank and station; a benefactor to the poor; an upholder of the glorious institutions of our country; an impartial magistrate; a true and leal friend to the loyal-hearted; a terror only to evil-doers; in short, a brilliant and shining specimen of a true English gentleman of the right stamp and noblest metal.

The intelligent and enlightened gentlemen of the jury—the learned gentleman went on to say—would readily accept his apology for being borne away by the depth and impetuosity of his feelings on this subject; for who could coldly look upon the sacrifice—the attempted assassination of—the almost accomplished murder of—a victim so conspicuous for every domestic, social, and public virtue, and not feel as a man—not speak as an Englishman? And now, having disburdened his heart, he would endeavour calmly to trace from one stage to another—from its first inception as an unreasonable and wicked dislike—an instinctive and characteristic hatred of that which is good by that which is evil and base—to the inchoate design, and from that to the ripened action which would presently be laid before the whole court in general, and the intelligent jury in particular, in all its naked enormity. Yes, he would trace from stage to stage, and from step to step, the sentiments, the threatening words, the baffled malice of the prisoner—the unhappy prisoner at the bar, and show by witnesses most respectable, most unimpeachable, that the deed attempted was no unfortunate accident, as he was given to understand would be pleaded by the unhappy man in his defence, nor even an unpremeditated act of sudden passion in the heat of an unguarded moment, but a deep-laid plan—an act of malice afore-thought—a predetermined, base, and cowardly act of private revenge, that, but for its partial miscarriage, for which no thanks were due to the prisoner, would have plunged a bereaved family into the deepest grief, would have rendered an estimable British lady of the most exalted character a disconsolate widow, and would have deprived her infant son of an affectionate, wise, and judicious father and guardian.

The eminent and learned member of the British bar would not detain the intelligent jury whom he addressed, with any further general remarks; but would (he said) proceed briefly and succinctly to lay before them the nature of the fact hereafter to be proved.

It would be shown, he continued, that the accused, who, he might be permitted to observe, was a small farmer occupying land nominally his own, in the vicinity of the noble estate and residence of the prosecutor, had at various times been unfortunately brought, or rather, had brought himself, into unpleasant collision with that gentleman, by his pertinacious infringement of the game laws, and by repeated trespasses upon the prosecutor's land, woods, and plantations; and he might remark that great forbearance had been exercised towards him in relation to these illegal acts. This forbearance, however, so far from softening the unhappy man's violent and unrestrained passions, had only encouraged him to proceed to greater lengths of perverse opposition; and it would be proved by a witness whom he should presently call, that only on the morning of the day of the attempted murder, he uttered no very obscure threats against the prosecutor, which might have passed unheeded and remained forgotten, but for the succeeding events, which fully explained their import.

"Well, on the morning of that day, gentlemen," the learned advocate went on, "the prisoner announced his intention of visiting this town. I should explain that it was at the time of the late election of a member for the county, and that the prisoner, as a freeholder, though on a small scale, had a vote. It was on the last day of the election; and it is necessary for me to impress upon your minds that the prisoner, in his capacity of a freeholder, had already given his vote, and that his presence was not in the slightest degree required in this town on that particular day. But he came hither, gentlemen, and, as I am given to understand, against the express wishes, and I may say commands, of a venerable parent—a very respectable personage for her station, I have no doubt—who advised her self-willed son to stay at home, and attend to his own proper business. Well would it have been, gentlemen, for that son had he obeyed his mother's injunctions; but '*quem Deus vult perdere*'—I need not continue the quotation, gentlemen; your classical minds will supply the rest." And hereupon the gentlemen of the jury looked at one another and nodded.

"But, gentlemen," continued the eminent and learned speaker, "not only did the unhappy prisoner at the bar persist in his intention of coming to this town, but in the course of discussion—as I shall presently show you by the mouth of an unwilling witness, as I am given to understand;—I say, that in the course of discussion on that occasion, a remarkable, a *most* remarkable and ominous expression escaped the prisoner's lips. These were his words: '*I mean to be in at the death*'—the death, gentlemen; he meant to be in at the death. I will not insult your superior understandings, gentlemen, by wasting words in meeting the idle suggestion that this expression might only have been borrowed from a sportsman's vocabulary, and was intended to imply that the speaker would see the last scenes in the election. Gentlemen, such a lame exposition might go down with men whose ideas do not soar beyond the limits of their confined intelligence; but you will see the deep and hidden and awful meaning conveyed by these words, which plainly declare that the death—yes, gentlemen, the death—of the subject of the unhappy man's malice was predetermined in his own mind, and so present in his thoughts, that the words slipped out unawares—words which doubtless he would have immediately recalled, if it had been in his power to recall them,—'*I mean to be in at the death*.'"

The barrister then proceeded to follow the accused through the events of the day in question; but as these have already been placed before the reader, a brief summary of the remainder of his address will suffice.

He intended, then, to show, (he said,) that early in the day, on first entering the town, the prisoner, unable, as it seemed, to curb the passions which animated him, made a savage and unprovoked assault upon the prosecutor, which necessitated a certain degree of gentle violence on that gentleman's part, in escaping from the furious attack. Next he should show, by the evidence of a professional gentleman of the highest respectability, the animus of the prisoner towards the unoffending individual whom he had singled out for private revenge. Next, he should prove the threatening language and gestures indulged in by the accused, towards that same individual, while heading an election mob on the afternoon of the same day. He should then follow the miserable man to the shop of a respectable mechanic, an artificer—a gunsmith, in fact, where he provided himself with the weapon with which the murderous deed was attempted, and where also he either accidentally or intentionally, as no longer needing that instrument of violence, left behind him a

bludgeon which had been seen in his hands through the whole of the former part of the day, and which, as the advocate had been given to understand, he had wielded with savage fury in the election fight, which had already, doubtless, become a part of the history of that ancient and respectable town.

It might be said, and the jury would probably be told by the prisoner, that the weapon procured of the gunsmith—which was none other than a double-barrelled gun, which would be exhibited in court as a silent but eloquent witness of the prisoner's evil intent—that that weapon was the unhappy man's own property, and had been in former times used by him in the comparatively harmless occupation of sporting; that it had been sent to the gunsmith to be repaired, and that, the repairs having been completed, it was natural for the owner to reclaim it.

"Gentlemen," said the impassioned speaker, "by all means let the prisoner have the benefit of this favourable circumstance—if it be, indeed, a favourable circumstance. And far be it from me, gentlemen, to utter a single word against the manly, the necessary, the sacred exercise of field sports, when followed by properly authorized and duly certificated individuals. But, gentlemen, here is the melancholy fact—the prisoner was *not* a properly authorized and duly certificated person. Therefore, in putting that weapon to its legitimate purpose—bear in mind that he was committing an offence—yes, committing an offence, gentlemen, against that admirable, and noble, and sacred palladium of British liberty, the law for the preservation of game. Gentlemen, by the very possession of that weapon, the prisoner stands before you confessedly a POACHER; a poacher, gentlemen; a character the most despicable, mischievous, and illegal.

"But, gentlemen, leaving this, I have to place before you what will presently be proved on oath, that the proceedings of the miserable man at this juncture, and the words he let drop on the occasion of his providing himself with the murderous weapon, are conclusive to the point, that he had already marked out for himself the perpetration of that horrible crime with which he stands charged. He procures the gun to be loaded, gentlemen,—to be loaded at that time of night, when it was already dusk, on the feeble pretext that it would be ready for him in the morning. Gentlemen, I appeal to you—sportsmen, as some, if not all of you, doubtless are—legally qualified sportsmen, gentlemen—I appeal to your experience, whether you ever loaded a gun over night, that it might be ready for the morning? Gentlemen, in my younger days, when the manly and bucolic art of shooting had its charms for me, it was my habit, invariably, to discharge my gun on my return from the pursuit of game, if it happened to be then loaded, in order to avert accidents which might otherwise have happened. But, gentlemen, the prisoner procured his gun to be loaded at night, that it might be ready for him in the morning. An unheard of and monstrous idea!

"But, then, mark what follows. Immediately contradicting himself, and thus exemplifying the axiom, that certain characters have need of good memories, the unhappy man—as will be proved in evidence—requested the gunsmith to charge the gun with No. 1 shot—with No. 1, gentlemen; alleging as a reason for this extraordinary proceeding, that he might, perchance, get a shot at a *troublesome fox* before reaching home. A troublesome fox! Gentlemen, I leave you to form your own judgment respecting these remarkable words."

The eminent and learned barrister then in a few words traced the course of the prisoner through the remainder of that night, to the "Travellers' Rest," and thence to



the place where the deed was done, leaving it to be inferred that, having concealed himself amidst the umbrageous foliage of that secluded and evil-omened spot, which he knew to be near to the road by which his intended victim would return to his home, he listened for the sounds of the horse's hoofs, and then discharged one of the barrels of his gun in order to draw that individual into the recesses of the wood; that in this deep-laid scheme he succeeded, as would be shown; and that then a conflict took place, in which—happily for society, and providentially for the object of his malice—he was but partially successful.

The learned advocate then repeated his assurance that, if he should prove what it was laid upon him, in the sacred interests of the safety and security of the British nation, and with due regard to the first principles of human justice, to prove in that court, the intelligent jury whom he addressed would feel it incumbent on them not to let loose again upon society so hardened a criminal. And thereupon he sat down.

#### CHAPTER XIV.—WHAT THE WITNESSES SAID.

THE examination of witnesses now commenced. It is not our intention to inflict upon the reader a full and minute report of the further proceedings of this trial. It is the less necessary to our story, as previous chapters have already pretty distinctly marked out the course of events on the last day of the election, and also as the speech of the learned counsel furnishes a clew to the evidence which he intended to place before the court.

It is sufficient to say, therefore, that the first witnesses called were certain neighbours of William Franklin, who had at sundry times heard him utter very intelligible sentiments respecting men of large property in general, and Miles Oakley in particular; also that he had quoted with approbation the conduct of the people in France, during the late Revolution there, in violently ridding the land of aristocrats, averring that sharp diseases required sharp remedies.

This evidence was objected to by the prisoner's counsel, as not bearing on the case before the court; but it was ruled by the judge that it was admissible and important, as showing the animus of the prisoner at the bar.

The next witness called was Martha White. It was evident that she entered the witness-box with great reluctance; and after casting a piteous look at her young master, as she repeatedly termed the prisoner, she broke out into sobs and tears. The whole of her evidence was unwillingly given, and had to be painfully extracted from her. She had meant no harm, she said, when she repeated to Tom, one of the men on the farm, what her young master had said at the breakfast-table; and she wished there had been a blister on her tongue rather than she should have repeated it. Neither did she believe her master meant any harm; she was sure he did not: it was only his way of talking when he was a little vexed.

The cross-examination of this witness elicited that the prisoner was a man of a mild and generous disposition, who never intentionally did harm to any one. And when the gentlemen of the long robe had done with her, and before she left the witness-box, she once more raised her eyes to the prisoner, and besought his forgiveness in passionate tones, for having said a word that could be turned and twisted against him.

The next witness was a gentleman who was one of the company of horsemen on the bridge, when the unfortunate rencontre took place between the prosecutor and the prisoner. It appeared that he observed the sudden seizure

by Franklin, of Mr. Oakley's bridle, without being aware of any cause of provocation, and that his opinion at the time, and afterwards, was that the man was either mad or drunk.

In cross-examination, this gentleman admitted that there might have been such provocation, though he did not see it; and that, if any person were to ride against him, (the witness,) with the apparent intention of insulting him, he should probably attempt to stop that person and demand an explanation or apology. Being further questioned, he also admitted that the strokes given by the prosecutor with his riding-whip were pretty hard ones; but they were stricken in self-defence, or from an instinct of self-preservation; and he should have done the same thing had he been thus attacked.

Following this witness, Mr. Peake, being called, entered the witness-box. His testimony told considerably against the prisoner; for, though in cross-examination he spoke favourably of Franklin, as far as his former knowledge of him was concerned, he positively swore to certain strong expressions used by the prisoner in reference to the prosecutor, which plainly indicated malice, and from which a design of revenge might be inferred. And, what farther added to this unfavourable impression was the evidence he gave respecting the prosecutor's kindly intentions towards Franklin; because this tended to prove that the attack in the wood could not have been provoked by any intemperance of feeling or action on the part of the prosecutor.

The evidence of the next two or three succeeding witnesses bore upon the demeanour and violent words of the prisoner in the market-place, in front of the hustings.

Benjamin Lemmon, on being placed in the witness-box, testified to the loading of the gun, and the words used by the prisoner on that occasion. On being interrogated by the counsel for the defence, he declared that there was nothing suspicious, so far as he could see, in any man loading his gun overnight, if he chose to do so; that No. 1 shot was a size often used by sportsmen, and was the shot any one would use who contemplated shooting a fox or other such animal. On being further interrogated, he declared that he understood the words of Franklin in relation to the "troublesome fox," in a literal and natural, and not in a figurative and non-natural sense. Foxes were troublesome to farmers, as everybody must know.

At this stage of the proceedings, the gun was produced in court, and handed to the jury for inspection. The mode in which they examined it provoked a smile from some of the spectators, which was expanded to a broad grin when the learned judge, with a look of unutterable disgust, and pointing to the weapon, said hastily, "Take it away; take it away."

"It is not loaded, my lord," said the counsel.

"What of that? May go off, loaded or not loaded," said his lordship: and thereupon the dangerous weapon was removed.

The next witnesses in succession were Morris, the landlord of the "Travellers' Rest," and Hodge Barton, neither of whom added much to the preceding evidence. According to the report already referred to, they were both in favour of the prisoner, though compelled to appear against him; so much so, that the perverse answers of Barton to the questions put by the counsel, called forth the severe rebuke of the judge, who declared he was half-minded to commit the witness for contempt of court. But he didn't.

Robert Greyson was next sworn, and, on being questioned, deposed to hearing two sworn reports of a gun in Hanging Wood; also to the time of the occurrence;



also to being left alone by his master, and to being hastily sent by Border, the gamekeeper, to procure help from "The Oaks." He knew nothing more.

Richard Border, following the preceding witness, declared that, being on the look-out in the Oakley plantations, about eleven o'clock on the night in question, he heard the report of a gun, which he judged to have been fired in Hanging Wood; that, hastening to the wood, and being guided to the spot by noises in the under-wood, which indicated that some person was hastily pushing through it, he came suddenly upon a part of the wood called "Pikey's Swamp." The moon was shining brightly, and by its light he saw with horror his master, the prosecutor, stretched on the ground. On trying to raise him, he perceived that he was insensible, and that blood was freely flowing from a wound in or near to the shoulder. Without waiting to examine further, or to pursue the retreating man, whoever it might be, he hastened back to the skirt of the wood, and despatched the witness Greyson for assistance. This soon arriving, the wounded gentleman was conveyed to his house, and a messenger was sent off at once for surgical assistance.

The counsel for the defence having declined to cross-examine this witness, another was about to be called, when the judge remarked that it evidently would be impossible to bring the trial to a conclusion on that day, as it was already late. He directed, therefore, that the jury should be secluded and properly accommodated till the morning. The prisoner was then removed, and the court broke up.

## TWO EMBASSIES TO THE COURT OF SIAM.

A FEW years ago, a source of great attraction, sometimes even in the Strand and Fleet Street, was the appearance of members of the Siamese Embassy to Queen Victoria. They displayed a prodigious partiality for jewellers' and watchmakers' shops, and expended large sums in the purchase of trinkets, and then went away, probably little wiser than when they came, and without advancing the commercial intercourse between their own country and Great Britain. In their sleepy, monotonous life at Bangkok, everything that astonished or perplexed them in this country has most likely long since been forgotten.

A similar mission has more recently astonished our neighbours over the Channel, and the Emperor was reported to have made very great display of his military forces, to impress the members of this Embassy with the vast power of France. From long experience amongst the Siamese, I can safely say that all this display is lost amongst them. They look upon it as a play got up for their special entertainment, and set just as much value upon the performance. In their own estimation, Siam is too far off, and too closely linked with Burmah and the British possessions in India and the Straits, to care or fear for any French influence; and as for the prowess of the arms of that country in Cochin China, that gains them no prestige at Bangkok; for the Siamese themselves have often been victorious over the Cochin Chinese, and, indeed, to a certain extent, hold sway over the western shores of Cambodia.

When I was residing at Bangkok, there arrived, almost upon the heels of each other, two embassies from two very opposite quarters of the globe, and from nations diametrically opposed in every sense of the word. The first was from the United States, and was brought thither from New York in the American frigate "Peacock." The members of this Legation were highly

educated and cultivated gentlemen; and they came laden with the most precious gifts, including the finest samples of art and manufacture. In short, they possessed everything requisite to secure them a favourable reception and hearing at the court of "the Brother of the White Elephant." The report of their arrival, however, instead of being productive of any favourable impression, produced the greatest alarm and panic in the floating capital. Orders were sent down to the governor of Paknam, as he valued his head, to prevent the vessel entering the river Menam, and the governor of Paknam (his house and the town he commanded being within easy broadside range of the anchorage in the outer bay) immediately sent off a couple of junks laden with sheep, poultry, vegetables, fruits, etc., with an imploring letter to the commander, setting forth the peril hanging over his own neck, and begging that the ship would weigh anchor, and put out to sea immediately. To make assurance doubly sure, however, he caused a chain cable to be stretched across the mouth of the river, and planted a few rusty old guns in a commanding position. Having so far performed his duty, and threatened to flay any man alive that would offer to pilot the ship over the bar, the governor, waiving all honour, handed over the government to his next in command, and took himself off into the interior on a religious pilgrimage.

Notwithstanding all this, however, the Embassy landed in their own boats, and proceeded unmolested to the capital, where they were gladly received and lodged by the colony of American missionaries, then resident at Bangkok, whose guests they remained until the officers of state could be aroused from their stupor to a sense of the positive fact that a duly authorized mission from a very powerful country had actually arrived amongst them. Then they adopted tardy measures to do honour to its reception. A whole street of floating houses was devoted to the Legation, fresh painted and furnished à la Siamese. State canoes were placed at their disposal, and a guard of honour and servants innumerable. All the commissariat department was supplied by the local government, and drowsy officials waited upon the ambassadors from morn till night.

To get an audience of the king, was, however, a knotty point, and one admitting of much preliminary argument and conversation. The etiquette to be observed on the occasion was the mightiest bone of contention. At first the Praklau hinted at the utter impossibility of any interview taking place unless the ambassador crawled into the royal presence on all fours. Failing on this point, he suggested the necessity of his Excellency's waddling in upon his knees, with his head bowed down upon his breast. Foiled here also, the Praklau remarked that the least the ambassador could do would be to remove his boots and stockings, and have his head shaved for the occasion—mild suggestions, which did not suit his Excellency's notions of diplomacy at all. To make a long story short, however, when all these difficulties were set at rest, and there only remained a day to be appointed for the interview, then all the astrologers and wise men had to be called together to work the oracle and decide upon the propitious hour and day when this persecuting stranger should be admitted to an audience.

The time fixed, I believe, was half-past three in the morning, when, at last, the American had his audience, presented his credentials and gifts, secured many promises (which were never intended to be fulfilled), and, after a month's further delay, received an autograph letter for the President of the United States, enveloped in silk bags, of the shape of an air balloon, and locked

up in a beautifully filigreed gold work-case, which, in its turn, was inserted into a satin-wood box. The upshot of that embassy finds the relations between the two countries in much the same position to-day as they were previous to its advent.

The second embassy that came to Siam during my sojourn there was from the Emperor of Cochin China, and was in every way more congenial to the feelings of the Siamese. They were a people similar to themselves in almost every respect, and certainly not more distinguished for civilization or the art of war. They were of the same stature, the same flat face and hideous features; they had the same cockatoo fashion of wearing the hair; the same strange practice of shaving the eyebrows, and dyeing the teeth jet black; they were identically the same as to costume, which consisted of a loose pajamah, or skirt, that fastened round the waist, and hung just low enough to conceal the knee-bones, and of nothing else; and addicted to the same practices of perpetually chewing quids of betel-nut, and squirting out the juice in all directions. They only varied this occupation at meal time, or when they smoked tobacco or opium. Like the Siamese, also, they were inordinate gamblers.

To astonish and intimidate these strangers as much as possible was the main aim of the Siamese government in preparing for their reception. The little island fort in the centre of the river, at its mouth, and opposite the town of Paknam, was ornamented with streamers, and fortified with little guns about a foot long; whilst from the spire of the miniature wat, or temple, in the centre, extended cords to either bank, thickly strung with Chinese crackers. Paknam itself polished up the old guns at the ruined Genoese fortress, on the right side of the bank, and an unlimited amount of gongs were suspended from branches of trees, each one having a talopeon, or priest, stationed hard by, to hammer away at it on the preconcerted signal being given. The same arrangements extended along either bank of the river at every curve and bend, whilst at Puklat, Belo, and other small towns, canons and troops with musketry were prepared. Densely lined as the banks are with very little intermission, from the mouth of the river right away up to the capital, with waving mangroves, every bush had some dozen gaily-painted Chinese lanterns attached to it. Fireworks of all descriptions that Chinese ingenuity could contrive were plentifully besprinkled on either bank of the river; and, all these arrangements being completed, it was agreed that the Cochin Chinese Embassy should quit the war junk which had fetched them thither, an hour before midnight, when the moon was at its full. During the afternoon some hundred and fifty state canoes, paddled by soldiers clad in scarlet and gold, left Paknam for the junk, and, hanging to her stern, awaited the appointed hour for the Embassy to enter the Menam.

I was an eye-witness to this procession, and never saw anything to exceed the beauty of this most wild yet placid and magnificent prospect. The moon was shining clear as daylight upon the calm and slumbering waters of the ocean outside, and streaked the ripples upon the surface of the river with quivering silver. The land breeze murmured gently amongst the branches of the waving mangroves, from whose leaves myriads of fire-flies and glow-worms emitted flashes of alternately bright green and golden light. All nature was at repose, and in profound silence the hour and the minute were awaited. Exactly at midnight, a solitary rocket was fired off from Paknam, and simultaneously the river was lighted up with countless myriads of lanterns of every brilliant hue

conceivable, making the waters appear like a vast host of rainbows, and entirely eclipsing the poor fire-flies, which must have been very much astonished, if not extinguished, by the process. The gongs on either side struck up a most deafening chorus, cannons roared, and crackers whizzed, whilst fireworks played high up overhead, bursting forth into showers of every form and shape and every colour and shade.

In the midst of this gorgeous display there swept into the mouth of the river, the long and snake-like canoes, one mass of glittering gold, and lighted up lanterns suspended from the dragon-headed bows, which rose several feet high out of the water. They also carried gongs, and bands of hideous music; and, as they swept by like a flash of lightning, distinctly discernible amongst them, from their jewelled umbrellas and overcloaks, were the ambassadors and their suite. There was no pause or no delay for their reception. They passed up the river straight to the palace of the Siamese potentate, and immediately on their arrival were admitted to an audience.

What their mission related to I am unable to say; but I know that they were fêted immensely, very much, doubtless, to the discomfort of the alligators, hitherto peacefully occupying the shallower water of the river higher up, near the ancient capital of Yuthea, scores of which were shot during their residence in Siam, and converted into what were savoury ragouts for their excellencies.

#### POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE collecting of postage stamps has for some time been a favourite pursuit, not with the young only, but with persons of all ages and classes, in England, France, Germany, and the United States of America. Like other fashions, this will probably go the round of the world, and collecting albums will be found in every country where postage stamps are known. When pursued merely for idle curiosity, or in the spirit of acquisitiveness, the occupation has little to distinguish it from other forms of collecting mania, but with right views and intelligent study, it may be made an employment not only entertaining but instructive and useful. It may even become an attractive help to education, and afford the opportunity for varied lessons in art, in geography, and in history.

The new postal system, as most of our readers are aware, was introduced into England in 1840. At first two envelopes were issued—one being a penny, black, and the other twopenny, blue; with a design by W. Mulready R.A. These were in circulation about six months, and then withdrawn; they are now scarce\* and valuable, and ought to be included in all large collections of stamps.

The penny adhesive postage label was then employed, with the same design as that now in use, but printed in black; two years afterwards the black stamp was changed to brown; afterwards to red, which has been the colour used ever since. The twopenny stamp has always been blue. There are now in circulation, besides the two mentioned, six other stamps: threepenny, rose; fourpenny, vermilion; sixpenny, lilac; ninepenny, yellow; tenpenny, brown; and one shilling, green. These all bear the head of Queen Victoria, and with the exception of the tenpenny stamp, which is octagonal, are the same in size and shape, but the borderings surrounding the portrait are various.

\* Sixty thousand of these envelopes, we are informed, were destroyed by the Crown officers towards the close of last year. They might have been sold as specimens for many times their value.

For nine years England had the exclusive use of postage labels, or stamps. In 1848 France issued her first stamps; in 1849 they came into general use there. The example was quickly followed by Belgium and Austria, then by the office of Thurn and Taxis (Germany), Spain, Bavaria, and other continental posts. The system is now adopted by above a hundred and thirty countries. There are between fourteen and fifteen hundred different labels known to exist. The portrait of our Queen appears on 237, and the figure of Britannia on 29 varieties. These belong to 34 British colonies or possessions, viz., 2 in Europe, 3 in Asia, 4 in Africa, 18 in North and South America, and 7 in Australia.

When the reader learns the vast variety of stamps, he will be less surprised at the present "stamp mania." There are now established in London and many provincial towns regular "Postage Stamps Exchanges." In London this is held in Lombard Street, and most largely attended on Saturday afternoons. In Paris, where the mania is as great as in London, the Exchanges are held in the gardens of the Tuilleries and Luxembourg, and are best attended on Thursdays. At all these places, and indeed throughout the collecting world generally, the stamps most sought after are those which issue from countries of little importance, and the value of the stamp usually increases as the size of the country decreases.

"Essai," or proof stamps, are also much in demand. There is more than one kind of stamp included under these terms. Proof stamps originate in this way: When a fresh plate of stamps has been engraved or struck, there is an impression taken in a different colour from that which the stamps will be issued in, to see if the plate is perfect. This proof is either torn up or thrown aside. Some person gets hold of the pieces and gives the stamps away, and in this or some similar way these proof stamps get into the market. The true "essai" stamp, however, is that which has been printed for issue, but never got into actual circulation, such as the threehalfpenny label of this country, a great number of which were made a short time since.

On looking through a well-arranged catalogue or collection of labels, it will be observed that in every country there is some distinctive feature running through several labels. That is to say, there is a national or specific character, of which the different stamps present varieties. For example, take France: on all her stamps prior to 1852 we had the head of Liberty; in 1852 the head of President Napoleon; in 1853 the head of the Emperor Napoleon III. Of each of these species there are several varieties, differing from each other in colour and value.

In English colonies, however, we see a still more curious feature. In them a species sometimes runs through several countries; for instance, we have the same full-face Queen's head in Grenada, Natal, Tasmania, New Zealand, and Queensland. Again, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick formerly had diamond-shaped labels of the same size and device, of a crown in the centre surrounded by four stars, containing the rose, shamrock, and thistle, value threepence, sixpence, and one shilling. These might be divided diagonally and used as two threehalfpenny, threepenny, or sixpenny labels. This custom is still used in Brunswick, where there is a stamp that may be cut into quarters.

New Brunswick is very rich in peculiar stamps; besides having the designs of a railway engine, a steam vessel, the bust of the Prince of Wales, and the before-mentioned stamps, it had, a short time since, the head of a man with a bushy beard. This was the portrait of a Mr. Connell, the then Postmaster-General of New Brunswick. As soon as the higher powers heard of his print-

ing his own portrait, they ordered the issuing of the label to be stopped. Connell, on receipt of this intelligence, threw up his office in disgust. Most of this label was gathered in, and it is very rarely met with now.

Amongst other remarkable and curious stamps, we have the West Australian, the device on all of which is a black swan. New South Wales has a view of Sydney, and natives presenting a palm branch to some personage seated in an arm-chair on the sea shore. The Sandwich Islands label has a portrait of King Kamehameha III in military full-dress.

On four stamps, belonging to different countries, we find the cap of Liberty; on four a cross; on five an eagle. The head of Mercury figures on two; ships on three; Emperors on three; Grand Dukes on two; Kings on ten; Queens on two, not reckoning England or her colonies; heads of Presidents on four. Bulls' heads, inns, keys and castles, horses, and various coats of arms appear on miscellaneous labels; and labels more unassuming simply bear in figures the value of the stamp.

The defacement marks on used stamps require some notice. Of course these are primarily put on so that the postage label shall not be used a second time, but in several countries they answer another purpose. It sometimes, or very frequently occurs, that the name of the town that issues the letter is imperfectly stamped; in such cases the number of the defacement stamp will supply the desired information. The mark at St. Martin's-le-Grand Chief Office is a changeable number in a circle; at Branch Offices, the letters of the district and the number of the office in an oval. In all towns in England and Wales the mark is the number of the town (in the Postal Directory), surrounded by lines forming a circle; in Scotland, a number with three lines at the top and three at the bottom; in Ireland, the number in lines, forming a diamond shape. The first defacement mark in England was by a figure something resembling a Greek cross.

In France the obliteration was formerly effected by crossed bars; it is now done by numerous dots placed closely together. In Holland the word "Franco" is imprinted in large letters. Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Prussia, and the United States, mark on the stamp the name of the issuing town and the date. The mark on Belgian defaced stamps resembles very closely such as would be made by using the top of a broom handle. Baden, Bavaria, and the office of Thurn and Taxis use a mark similar to our own, but having many more circles.

The office of Thurn before mentioned is composed of all the small grand duchies, duchies, principalities, and some of the free cities of Germany. It was established in the latter part of the fifteenth century, by Roger, Count of Thurn, Taxis, and Valsassina. This post remained in the possession of the family of Thurn until 1615, when Count Lamoral was infeoffed with it as an imperial fief; but it came to be so badly managed that the larger States set up offices of their own. It is now, however, as well managed as any continental post, and is divided into North and South Germany. The same species of square label is used throughout both divisions, the design being a figure indicating the value in Silber groschen for the Northern, and Kreuzers for the Southern States. The envelope stamps have the same designs, but are oval and octagon shaped.

Stamped envelopes, in most countries, present the same devices as the adhesive labels, but instead of being printed with surface colour, they are embossed. The shapes are usually oval, round, or octagonal. Ceylon has





POSTAGE ONE PENNY.

THE MULREADY POSTAGE ENVELOPE.

her ninepenny and one and ninepenny envelope stamps square, and Mauritius has one of nine sides. These are the exceptions to the shapes before mentioned. Although the system of franking letters by means of a signature had been in use ever since the establishment of a post in England, yet there was no envelope stamped in any way that would pass a letter, before the Mulready design. After that was withdrawn, the head of Queen Victoria was used, embossed in white relief on brown, for one penny, and in white on blue for twopenny postage. Some time after this, the penny was changed for pink, and a date-mark added to both. Besides these, the envelopes now in use are threepenny, rose-coloured; fourpenny, red (round); sixpenny, violet (octagon), and one shilling, green (octagon).

Russia was the next to adopt stamped envelopes, but hers are not embossed, they are printed. The first appeared in 1848, and was a rudely engraved die of the Royal Arms. It is not much improved now; forgery is, however, guarded against by a large water-mark design all over the envelope. There are only two countries in which private post offices are allowed to compete with the government, viz., the United States of America and Hamburgh. In the former there are numberless "Express Companies," which carry parcels as well as letters; and in the latter there are "Institutes," the chief of which is the "Boten," Hamer and Co. proprietors.

England, and many other countries, till lately had a silk thread run through the paper; this is now on the continent universally superseded by an inscription printed in very minute type across the paper near the stamp.

Some manuals for collectors have taken up the subject of forgeries in stamps. This is by no means unimportant, as all kinds of pieces of coloured paper, with marks on them, are now being passed off on young collectors as postage labels. I once saw in a collection, as a Brazilian, the small figure in a circle, which denotes the sheet number of the English fourpenny labels; the owner was quite inconsolable when I informed him what it really was, declaring, in the collector's language, that he had given a "Black Republican" and an "Old Blue Prussian" for it.

There are many good foreign catalogues of stamps, but

the best English ones that have yet appeared are those of Mr. Mount Brown,\* and of Dr. J. E. Gray, of the British Museum.

In our page of Illustrations we have endeavoured to give, as well as our space will allow, a general idea of the stamps of the world. The Cape, and St. John's, Newfoundland, are the only two instances of triangular stamps. The Spanish one represented has only just been issued, and is a great improvement on those formerly in circulation. The Trinidad is exactly the same device as those of Barbados and Mauritius; this exemplifies what was before said of several colonies adopting the same device. The Indian is the one that was in use under the government of the East India Company; the stamp now in use is somewhat similar. The United States stamp bears the portrait of General Washington, whose head also appears on several other of their labels. The Liberian stamp shows that the free negro republic is not deficient in public spirit or in artistic ability. The Italian is the one now in use all over Italy, having taken the place of six others, viz. Naples, Sicily, Tuscany, Parma, Papal States, and Romagna; it was in use for Sardinia only, until 1861. The Papal stamp is now happily confined to the City of Rome. The French one has been in use since 1853. The device is the same on the whole series; our readers will notice the similarity between this and the Greek stamps: the reason is, the Grecian is made in Paris, and the French taken as a pattern. The Maltese is the only one the Island of Malta possesses; the value is one half-penny: it is a pale yellow colour. The Prussian was introduced on the accession of the present king in 1861, in place of that bearing the portrait of King Frederick William IV. The others need no explanation here.

From the introduction to Dr. Gray's Descriptive Catalogue† we give an extract:—

"If postage stamps are properly studied, collected, and

\* Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps; above 1500 varieties. Third Edition. 124, Cheapside.

† Hand Catalogue of Postage Stamps. By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S. R. Hardwicke. A list of English and foreign works on the subject will be found in Dr. Gray's Handbook.



NEW BRUNSWICK.



CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.



CANADA.



SPAIN.



TRINIDAD.



VICTORIA.



QUEENSLAND.



INDIA.



U. S. AMERICA.



LIBERIA.



AUSTRIA.



FRANCE.



MALTA.



NEW BRUNSWICK.



GREECE.



W. AUSTRALIA.



LUBECK.



PRUSSIA.



ITALY.



HANOVER.



NEWFOUNDLAND.



PAPAL STATES.

SPECIMENS OF BRITISH, COLONIAL, AND FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS.

arranged, there is no reason why they may not be quite as instructive and entertaining as the collection of birds, butterflies, shells, books, engravings, or other objects.

"The use and charm of collecting any kind of object is to educate the mind and the eye to careful observation, accurate comparison, and just reasoning on the differences and likenesses which they present, and so interest the collector in the design or art shown in their creation or manufacture, and the history of the country which produces or uses the objects collected. The postage stamps afford good objects for all these branches of study, as they are sufficiently different to present broad outlines for their classification; and yet some of the variations are so slight that they require minute examination and comparison to prevent them from being overlooked; and the fact of obtaining stamps from so many countries suggests the question what were the circumstances that induced their adoption, the history of the countries which issue them, and the understanding why some countries have considered it necessary, in so few years as have passed since they first came into use, to make so many changes in the form or design of the stamp used, while other countries, like Holland, have never made the slightest change.

"The changes referred to all mark some historical event of importance; such as the accession of a new king, a change in the form of government, or the absorption of a smaller state into some larger one, a change in the currency, or some other revolution. Hence a collection of postage stamps may be considered, like a collection of coins, an epitome of the history of Europe and America for the last quarter of a century; and at the same time, as they exhibit much variation in design and in execution, as a collection of works of art on a small scale, showing the style of art of the countries that issue them; while the size of the collection, and the manner in which they are arranged and kept, will show the industry, judgment, neatness, and taste of the collector, who should always bear in mind that every accessory that is showy and bright takes away from the appearance and interest of the stamps themselves.

"I began to collect postage stamps shortly after the system was established and before it had become a rage, as I took a great interest in their use and extension; and I believe I was the first who proposed the system of a small uniform rate of postage to be prepaid by stamps.

"Large as is the balance carried to the revenue from the Post Office, the system introduced by Sir Rowland Hill has never been completely carried out; consequently, a large staff of clerks and other officials is still retained at the Post Office, at a large expense, to keep the complicated accounts that a few unpaid letters require, which, if the system were fully carried out, would not be necessary.

"I am aware that the prepayment of all letters by stamp is very difficult, if not impossible, to be carried out; but this is not necessary. There is no necessity for any account of unpaid letters to be kept, except in cases where the official suspects some unfair play; otherwise it might be left to the postmaster, through whose hands the unstamped letter last passes, to place the requisite stamps upon it, and to collect the costs of those stamps from the person to whom the letter is directed. This he is likely to do with care, as each postmaster is allowed a commission on all the stamps he sells; and to prevent, as much as possible, the sending of letters that would require this treatment, the system of paying double postage, or even a higher fine, should be enforced on all letters not paid for in stamps before they are despatched. It is said that the postmaster may lose, as many of the letters on which he has placed stamps may be refused.

If so, they would be returned to the Dead-letter Office, and his stamps allowed for; but this will not be often requisite, as the Post Office can now enforce the payment against the sender if it be refused by the person to whom the letter is directed.

"The postage prepaid by stamps has been extended into other branches of the Government and the law courts. It is also used in the electric telegraph companies, and in several errand and carrier companies in Europe and America. Oddly enough, some collectors place the stamps used by the Hamburg and American private carrier companies with their postage stamps. This catalogue is confined to stamps issued by Government post offices; for if those used by private establishments were to be included, it would be difficult to define the limit.

"In England the Stamp Office will place an embossed stamp on any paper that is sent to them for that purpose. So that the embossed stamps are circulated in very different forms and kinds of paper. They also permit embossed rings with the name of a firm to be printed at the same time and in the same manner as the stamp; and stamps so circulated have been regarded as distinct kinds of stamps, when in fact they are only means of advertisement used by certain private firms."

## ADVENTURES IN TEXAS.

### CHAPTER V.

I WAS born in a sporting county (Northamptonshire), and as a child, all that related to horses, dogs, and guns were my delight. At school or at home, any book that I could pick up which contained anything relating to sporting matters was eagerly devoured. Of course, Fenimore Cooper's novels did not escape me, and I need not say with what interest I followed the adventures of Hawk-eye, how I envied his marvellous shooting, or how much I longed to make the acquaintance of the "noble savage." Nothing was less probable in those days, for I was intended for a very serious profession, and it was little likely that I should ever tread with moccasined foot the American wilderness, or ever have a closer acquaintance with the original lord of that noble hunting ground, than could be obtained by an introduction to Mr. Catlin's Indians at the Egyptian Hall.

Certain disappointments, however, which I met with induced me to turn my attention to Canada, and I accordingly, after having had a parting shot at the partridges, packed up my traps on the 12th of September, and started for Liverpool, intending to take my departure in the "Europa."

How very often it has happened that the greatest events of one's life are determined by the merest accidents! I went into a chop-house, in Dale Street, to get some lunch, and picked up a paper in which was an extract from a letter written by some one in Texas to a friend in England, which described in glowing terms the hunting capabilities of that "Italy of America," as he called it. Buffalo, wild horses, bears, deer, turkeys, grouse, quail, wild fowl, etc., were said to abound to any extent on the prairies, forests, and lakes of that sunny land. I am bound to say that the enthusiastic writer had not exaggerated these facts, as I subsequently discovered. I at once decided that this was the country for me; so, scarcely giving myself time to swallow my luncheon, I started off for Water Street, and had soon secured and paid for a cabin passage to New Orleans on a cotton vessel—i. e., a ship which carried out emigrants and brought back cotton.

The voyage was an ordinary one of about seven weeks'



duration of actual sailing, though it occupied us longer, as we were obliged to touch at a West Indian island for a few days. It was quite of sufficient length, however, for me to discover how very tough salt-cow or horse-beef can get after a few voyages, and how very lively the biscuits become under similar circumstances. These delicacies, specially provided for emigrant vessels, being purchased from old ship stores, for the very sufficient reasons that they can be bought so cheap, and that anything is good enough to feed emigrants upon, they lay a beautiful foundation, I must confess, for the due appreciation of "soft toxamy" and fresh meat when the unhappy *voyageurs* once more reach dry land.

Two incidents occurred, which, as I was not pressed for time particularly, I considered rather fortunate. In the first place, our foremast was carried away in a white squall, and in the second, we got short of water, which obliged our skipper to put into Jamaica for a fresh supply. This gave me an opportunity of seeing a little of that beautiful island, which, perhaps, I might never else have seen.

I have in the first chapter already stated my impressions of both New Orleans, the largest commercial city of the South, and of Galveston, the chief seaport of Texas. I had been some two years wandering about the country, shooting, fishing, and making myself acquainted with the people and the methods pursued in the production of cotton, sugar, tobacco, cattle, and horse-raising, etc., when I found myself one fine day in the town of Washington, on the Rio Brazos de Dios. This city—for all villages in America are thus denominated—is situated at the head of the low water navigation of that river, about one hundred and fifty miles from the coast in a straight line, and about four hundred by the meanderings of that stream. Navigation is practicable to Waco, one hundred and fifty miles further, where there is a freshet. I stopped at the "Emmons House," the table of which caravansary was bountifully supplied; more than one wild turkey graced the board, whilst venison appeared in several shapes, roast, stewed, and broiled. Vegetables, too, were in great profusion. Smoking the post-prandial cigar on the piazza, I was joined by the landlord, who, in answer to some remarks of mine, told me that the town just then was well supplied with game, as a small band of friendly Indians were encamped a few miles off, who came in with the produce of their chase three or four times a week.

Here, then, was the opportunity so long desired, once so little hoped for. I had now the chance of seeing the Indian on his native heather—seeing him pursue his natural occupation, and perhaps of learning some tricks of woodcraft myself from his guidance and instruction.

Having ascertained that I need apprehend no difficulty about being allowed to accompany them, I at once laid in a stock of tobacco, butcher-knives, beads, lead, and powder, intended for presents, and waited rather impatiently, for their next visit, when I was determined if possible to get into the good graces of the redskins, and procure an invitation for a few days' hunting with them. The third day after my arrival they appeared, and through the kindness of a gentleman who had some influence with them, I succeeded in my object. I was, however, warned not to give them any "fire water," as, under its influence, there was no knowing but that something disagreeable might occur. I found, too, that the party told off to bring in the meat nearly always got drunk, one alone playing the part of "sober Indian," and whose business it was to take care of the inebriates, prevent their getting into mischief, and watch over them till they had slept off the effects of that poison, which has

done more to degrade and destroy the aboriginal tribes of America than all the revolvers and rifles which have ever been fashioned by the cunning of the pale-faces.

From my own later observations, I am convinced that the Indians of the North American continent are a doomed race. It is true that it will be a work of time, but it will surely come. Though many of the prairie tribes of horse savages are yet very powerful, such as the Comanches, Lipans, Apaches, Sioux, etc., yet, with California fast growing in population on the Pacific coast, and the gradual extension of the borderers from the settlements of the Atlantic States, with a pony express, that is actually carrying the mails between New York and San Francisco, and lastly, with a railroad (no matter how the present war ends), which will soon be a "fixed fact," I cannot but see that ere long the buffalo, and with them the Indians, will soon become things of the past. When the earthen vessel sails down the stream with the brass one, it needs no great spirit of prophecy to foretell the result.

The American Government has at various times set apart certain districts, called "Indian reserves;" but how long have they been reserved when Ahab has coveted Naboth's vineyard? How fared the Seminoles in Florida? The boundaries of the district once set apart for them gradually narrowed, until the band were finally removed from the State. Seminole in the native language means a wanderer, and well does the poor remnant of that tribe become the name; the last I heard of it was, that under its head chief, Wild Cat, it was pillaging in New Mexico. One of two things will happen to this band, if it has not already—either they will be absorbed into a more powerful nation, such as the Comanches or Navagos, and lose their identity, or in self-defence they will be exterminated by the Texans, Mexicans, or neighbouring and more warlike Indians.

The chief of the party having readily agreed to my joining them for a short time, I prepared to accompany them. My horse was soon saddled, and I concealed at the bottom of my saddle-bags a couple of bottles of whisky, a canister of good rifle powder, and some water-proof caps; these were intended for my own private stores. The whisky I carried in case I might be bitten by a snake; it is looked upon as a certain cure, and in every case in which I have seen it tried—and that has been several—it has never failed. The beads, keg-powder, knives, etc., were placed in a wallet, and thrown over the saddle-bags; with these I hoped to secure a welcome, and ingratiate myself with my new allies. The band was encamped about fifteen miles off, on the banks of the Navosoto, a stream which divides Brazos and Grimes counties, and empties itself into the Rio Brazos, directly opposite the town of Washington. They had chosen, as the natives invariably do, a beautiful spot in the post oaks, on the edge of a prairie glade, and their wigwams at a little distance looked very picturesque and inviting, though a closer acquaintance, as is often the case, proved that distance had lent enchantment to the view, as they were in reality very filthy and full of smoke. There were eight warriors and three squaws; amongst the men was one Comanche, one Delaware, and the rest Shawnees. I had afterwards reason to believe that they were not very respectable Indians. A love of whisky, and some skill in hunting, had probably drawn them together, and induced them to hunt for a white settlement, where they could indulge their appetites with less restraint than was possible for them with their respective tribes. Of the squaws, two were young, but not by any means good-looking, whilst the third was an old hag, a perfect marvel of hideousness. It is wrong to judge by

appearances, for this poor old creature was never idle, and had much skill in embroidering with beads, mocassins, pipe-cases, knife-sheaths, etc. Peace to her ashes, if she be dead—if not, may she live a thousand years! A pair of beaded mocassins of her manufacture are near me now as I write, although more than a dozen years have elapsed since they were wrought.

My poor pointer, Rose, was regarded with much scorn, the Indians evidently looking upon her as a hound, a species they have the highest contempt for, calling them "fool dogs." The reason is, that hounds open on the trail of their quarry, and thus proclaim their pursuit, whilst it is the nature of Indians, panther-like, to creep silently upon their prey, and make themselves felt before they are either heard or seen. Yet we both won their respect before very long, Rose, by pointing at several beavies of quail, which abounded in the glades, and I by bringing them down right and left on the wing—a feat which produced many "Ughs" from my tawny friends, who found they had formed too hasty an opinion of us, as well as of my "scatter-gun."

The wigwams were made of saplings planted in the ground, and slightly arched where they met at the top; these were thatched with skins tacked together with deer sinews, the fire-place being on the ground and in the centre, some of the smoke finding its way out at the apex, where a space was left open for that purpose. I say some of the smoke, because the greater portion lingered in the wigwam, or slowly percolated through the flap which served for a door, or any of the seams through which it could find its way. I found it very trying for my eyes.

Upon my arrival I was shown into the Delaware's lodge, who seemed to exercise the chief control, and invited to seat myself upon a bearskin. I was glad to be this man's guest, as he understood English better than any of the others, although I had great difficulty in conversing even with him. Having distributed some plugs of tobacco amongst my entertainers, I proceeded to fill my short black pipe, and to meditate on the situation.

I was not long left in peace, however; for I noticed that Rose, who had couched herself at my feet on the bearskin upon which I was squatting, appeared very uneasy, and that she frequently indulged in a fit of scratching; a more minute examination of the hide showed me that it was swarming with fleas. Fortunately, I was not utterly unused to the country, or its pests; so, after shaking the skin well, I took a bottle of spirits of turpentine from my private stores, and sprinkled it over both the rug, my own clothes, and Rose, and for a time it saved us from the annoyance.

I believe we are all fated to consume a certain portion of dirt in the course of our lives. I have heard the quantity stated at a bushel. I am quite sure that in all my wanderings, I must much have exceeded that moderate allowance; still, as I had no wish to eat more than I was absolutely compelled to do, I was determined to prepare my own food as much as I could, without giving offence to my hosts. Luckily, life in the forest allows a hunter to be his own cook.

The morning after my arrival, the red-skins started at daylight on their hunt; but they went separately, the Delaware alone having me for a companion. I had before this hunted a great deal with some of the best white hunters in the State, and had killed a great many deer and turkeys, and I flattered myself that, as a hunter, I was by no means to be despised; but my object now was to observe the skill of my host rather than exhibit my own, and to make a note of any "wrinkle" that might be of benefit to me on future occasions. For this purpose

I cautiously followed the hunter, moving as he moved, stooping when he did, stepping in his tracks, and, although carefully watching his slightest motions, yet never incommoding him or getting in his way. I confess I was disappointed, though a little reflection might have told me that the backwoodsman and the savage would hunt alike.

I found that, compared with the pale-face, the savage was in no point his superior, except, perhaps, in the single one of patience, whilst the former had the great advantage of perfect confidence in his skill with the rifle; for I noticed, that when shooting at a "treed" turkey—one of the safest shots imaginable—the red man would aim at the body of the bird, when the white would split open its head.

I returned to Washington after some six days' absence, entirely stripped of the illusions in which I had indulged from the descriptions of savage life which I had read. I found the "noble savage" scarcely the equal of the pale-face at his own game; that he lived amongst vermin, filth, and smoke, which would be a torture to the English peasant; that he was completely cut off from all intellectual enjoyments; and that the freedom, which he certainly did enjoy, was as aimless as that of a wild horse.

#### THE NEWSPAPER PRINTING OFFICE.

THE uninitiated reader, who takes in a newspaper, and pays a penny or twopence for it—and a very good newspaper can now be had for a penny—must often ask himself the question how it comes to pass that he gets his newspaper so cheap. He sees that his weekly journal contains forty-eight columns of closely-printed matter, each column more than half a yard long; and that in the aggregate they furnish him with intelligence, not merely of all that has lately happened in his own country, but of all which is of any importance for him to know has happened among neighbouring nations, and in the most distant regions of the globe. How comes it that he gets all this mass of information, with a large amount of miscellaneous matter into the bargain, for a single penny, while the very paper on which it is printed costs half the money? Instead of answering this question in detail, we invite the reader to follow us into the interior of the printing office, and there gather the materials for answering it himself.

A newspaper printing office consists of a series of chambers, of no confined limits, and comprising editors' room, composing-rooms, machine-room, and the sale-room. In the editors' rooms, the contents of the newspaper are written or otherwise prepared; in the composing-room they are put into type by the compositors; in the machine-room the papers are printed; and in the sale-room they are despatched in envelopes to subscribers, and delivered in quires, over the counter, to the newsman.

Assuming the newspaper which we are about to see ushered into being to be a weekly paper—and we select a weekly that we may watch the several processes with more deliberation—we shall make our first call at the printing office some time in the forenoon of Monday. We find the editor's room empty, or at least the editor's chair; but his sub, or deputy, is there, looking over the morning papers, in a jaunty easy way, and perhaps puffing his cigar in company with a brother sub, or a group of them, and presently they will all sally out to lunch together, returning in time to look at the evening papers. Proceeding to the composing-room we find a few of the journeymen assembled, and with an apprentice or two

engaged in the preparatory process of distributing type. On a large iron table in the centre of the room is one of the forms of last week's paper in the act of being broken up, as its type will be used for the paper of the current week. Each of the compositors has a handful of the type in his left hand, and with his right he is rapidly showering the letters into the empty boxes of his case—and the noise of eight or ten of them so engaged sounds not much unlike a hail-storm on a roof. The maker-up (that is the man who puts the contents of the paper together) is also present, and he marks with a piece of soft chalk the face of that portion of the type which is not to be distributed, and which consists for the most part of advertisements, which will have to appear again. The men take their work very easy, and chatter and joke together without reserve, and, unless the days are very short, they will not light up, but quit at an early hour. They will have to compensate the leisure of Monday by working late, later in the week.

On Tuesday the editor will most probably be found in his place, reading the daily journals, or the controversial correspondence, or writing a leader, or perhaps giving directions to his reporters, or discussing matters with his principal or proprietor. Meanwhile the sub is busy enough with a long pair of scissors, with which he is cutting out paragraphs of news from the daily papers of the morning or the day before; these he despatches by a boy to the composing-room, but not before he has cut down their verbiage by blotting out the unnecessary phrases of the penny-a-liners. The "copy," as it is called, when it reaches the composing-room, is delivered to the compositors, who put it into type, ranging the several paragraphs on galleys, which are small metal troughs prepared to receive it. When a galley is filled, an impression of the type it contains is taken at a press, and together with the copy is made over to the "reader," who reads it carefully, marks all the blunders, and sends the proof back to the compositor for correction. After a galley has been corrected it is laid aside securely, until wanted to occupy its place in the form of the completed newspaper. Only a small part of the paper is put into type on Tuesday, however—nothing more, in fact, than the indispensable record of events which have transpired must be chronicled; indeed, the editor is chary of filling his columns too early, lest he should have to delete the matter, and thus waste time and money. The compositors generally complete the task of distribution on this day, and fill their cases with type sufficient for the week.

Wednesday morning will find both the editor and his sub well entered with their work. By this time correspondents are sending in their letters, which must be read over and judged for acceptance or rejection; the reviewer forwards his critiques on books; the musical or dramatic critic does the same; some of the reporters come in with their short-hand notes and begin scribbling them down for the compositors; perhaps a stranger comes rushing in with an alarm of a railway smash or a blow-up in the neighbourhood, and somebody must be sent to learn the rights of it. At the same time the advertisements come in speedily hour by hour. Altogether this is a busy day in the editorial room; and it is none the less so in the composing-rooms, where the men are digging away doggedly at the types, and where, in the course of fourteen or fifteen hours, a good solid mass of the paper is composed and corrected.

Thursday may be regarded as a repetition of Wednesday, so far as the editors and compositors are concerned; but it is a more trying day for the "maker-up," who on this day has to send the inner form of the paper—that is, pages 2, 3, and 6, 7, to press. These pages never con-

tain the latest news, which often arrives after they are printed; they consist rather of cuttings from the daily papers, of contributions, of reports of trials, reviews of books, varieties, criticisms, etc., and as many advertisements as can be collected. As making-up is no trifling business, he who performs it well must possess not only great manual dexterity, but qualities of mind far above the common order. If the varied contents of a newspaper were mixed together at random, the use of it would be a puzzle and a plague rather than a pleasure to the reader; therefore they are invariably classified and arranged according to a system, by which the newspaper reader knows in an instant where to turn for what he wants to see, whether it be the leaders, the money-market, the births and deaths, the reviews and literary notices, or any other subject. Even the advertisements have to be classified—the auctions, the publications, the professional cards, the "want places," etc., each and all being ranged in separate categories for the convenience of the public. All this arrangement falls upon the maker-up, and he has to manage it every week, by the application of his system, to matters which are always varying, and concerning which he has not time to deliberate. It is hardly necessary to add, that some newspapers are much better made up than others; and indeed there are several which owe their popularity as much to the excellent arrangement of their contents as to any quality they can boast.

The first form of the paper being made up, is carried down to the machine-room, where the steam has been got up, and all things made ready for its reception. The preparations for working occupy some time, and while these are in progress any final corrections that may be necessary are made in the form as it is on the machine. When these are done the working-off commences, and goes on, if the circulation is large, during the whole of the night, as, unless there be two machines available, the whole of the inner form must be worked before the outer form is ready to take its place.

Friday must be regarded as the field-day in the office of a weekly newspaper. It is then that the editor has to write his last leaders and sum up the events of the week—that the sub has to make his latest selections from the daily prints, and to condense them as best he can. There is always a stated hour at which the newspaper is held to be closed for the week against certain species of matter: thus, there is no more correspondence admitted, say, after Thursday noon—no more literary contributions after such a date—no more advertisements after such an hour; and no more leaders either, after a specified time on Friday. Such regulations are necessary for the sake of the maker-up, in order that he may know what he has to make room for while he has time to do it, and not be bothered out of his wits; but in practice they are often overruled, and that inevitably, in the interests of the paper. It will happen now and then that some slow coach of a contributor, who has been elaborating an article all the week, pushes in with it at the last hour, and the editor, seeing that the matter is of importance, is obliged to accept it, and delete something else—perhaps a leader of his own—to make room for it. Or it will happen that some distressed damsel in want of a situation brings in her advertisement at the eleventh hour, and assails the editor with all the artillery of moist eyes and eloquent supplications, refusing to take No for an answer, until at last (for editors are not impregnable) her request is complied with. Various other causes, such as sudden accidents and calamities, may also operate with even more effect. Meanwhile the compositors are putting up the types, and the big form is gradually becoming solidly filled; and at length, time is up, the massive columns



are wedged together, and down goes the second form, "to bed," that is, the bed of the machine, which soon begins to roll off the now completed impressions.

As soon as the second form is gone "to bed," we may betake ourselves to the sale department. Here we find the publisher, with a staff of assistants ranged along a bare counter furnished with a tubful of paste, and some thousand or two of printed addresses of subscribers, already pasted at the edge, and waiting to be stuck on. No sooner is the machine heard to growl and rattle below, than off runs a lad and returns with a few of the printed sheets, which he dabs upon the counter; a dozen hands are on them in a moment, and in a moment more they are folded and enveloped in the addresses. A new batch arrives in a minute, which also find their way into the envelopes. This goes on until all the stamped edition is worked off, which generally happens at the moment when there is barely time to scamper off with them to the Post Office. Now is the critical moment. "Look alive, there, with the bags!" In go the damp papers into the sacks, pell-mell, higgledy-piggledy—by handfuls, by hatfuls, by bushels, by whole cataraacts swept in from the counter; and off rush the lads and men, staggering under their heavy loads, to overtake the minute-hand of the clock, already verging on the inevitable hour. Of course they "save the post;" it would not do to fail in that; but to say the truth, they are rather fond of a hair-breadth escape from losing it, and are apt to look disappointed if they find they have a whole minute to spare.

When the stamped edition is worked off, and the bulk of it despatched per post, the publishing office is thrown open, and the newsmen and newsboys are let in. There is a crush, of course, among them to get the first copies—first come first served is the law; and as he who is the first served has the best chance of sale, this is not an occasion on which politeness and ceremony are at a premium. On the contrary, the scene enacted is rather of a bear-garden description, and one in which the weakest goes to the wall.

The working of the entire impression does not go on uninterruptedly. The weekly paper has more than one edition. First, there is a pause for the insertion of the Friday night's "Gazette;" there is another next day, for the introduction of that portion of Saturday's news which shall be of most importance; and there is yet another, in which matter is gleaned from Saturday's evening papers; which last edition constitutes the Sunday morning's issue.

Such is the history in brief of the printing of a weekly newspaper, as it may be gathered from the interior of a printing office. When the issue of the paper is daily instead of weekly, the affair becomes very different, and is in fact so complex as hardly to admit of an intelligible description that should be brief. The editor, in that case, controls and selects, but rarely writes, having a staff of writers at his command. There is little cutting of news from other papers—only a few extracts from the provincial press; but there is a band of reporters who collect it, and there are the penny-a-liners, who look after accidents and local events. Then there are the correspondents at home and abroad, whose communications are continually arriving; and in session time there are the Parliamentary reporters, who record the doings of both Houses; and there are men, specially engaged, who furnish the money articles, the shipping, the state of the markets, etc., etc. The mass of manuscript sent in by all these various contributors is something enormous; and it is digested, selected, and arranged by sub-editors, under the direction of the editor in chief, upon a systemized plan, the value of which

has been proved by long experience. The compositors on a daily are of course a multiple of those employed on a weekly, and their work is much more wearisome and exacting. They are in consequence paid much better, and when strong, and capable of prolonged labours, often earn from three to four guineas a week. In case they should break down, however, there is a provision at hand in the shape of the "grass-cutters," a race of supernumerary compositors, who without any regular engagements, and without the certainty of earning anything, haunt the offices of the daily papers, with the view of taking the place of any absentee or exhausted "regular," or of doing any unlooked-for and supplementary work that may have to be done. Some idea of the accidents to which a "daily" is liable may be gathered from the fact, that these grass-cutters, who are supported by them, make from thirty to forty shillings a week.

We have supposed our weekly paper to have a moderate circulation, and to be worked on the "bed" of an ordinary cylinder machine, though it is a fact that some of the weeklies have an enormous sale, and are worked off at as rapid a rate as the dailies. When the daily paper is made up and goes to the machine, instead of lying on a flat bed, it is made fast on the outer circumference of a large drum, surrounded by a number (six or more) of small cylinders: the drum is whirled round by steam; the blank paper is laid on the small cylinders by lads stationed at each; the type is inked by rollers placed in the interstices between the cylinders, and in passing, each one of them prints the paper that was laid upon it, the printed sheets being moved off and laid smooth by the machine itself, as fast as they are done. Thus, six or eight sheets are printed in one revolution of the drum, and as the drum may be made to revolve 2000 times in an hour, from 12,000 to 16,000 copies may be printed within that time.

With the above-described facts and processes in his possession, the reader has the means of answering the question with which he set out, and can tell why it is that he gets his newspaper so cheap. If he consider that after the type is once prepared and on the machine, every revolution of the drum doubles the money value of the paper printed by it, he will see that profit is only a question of numbers, and that, if the demand for the newspaper be very great, the profit will be great in proportion. But besides the profit on the sale of large numbers, there are the sums paid for advertisements, and it is really these, rather than the profits on the sale, that yield the chief income on a prosperous newspaper. Some journals literally coin money by means of their advertising columns—though none of them in this respect equal the "Times," whose advertisements may be reckoned by thousands, at an average over five shillings each.

A prosperous newspaper has been justly compared to a mine of wealth. It is but fair to add, however, that in the endeavour to establish this kind of prosperity, whole treasures have been exhausted in vain; and that the history of the Fourth Estate teems with the record of dreary failures, of wasted capital, and of heart-breaking defeat.

#### THE PRINCE CONSORT'S SPEECHES.

It is a rare thing to find regret increased and sorrow deepened by time. Yet such is the case with the national grief for the loss of the late Prince Consort. The more that is disclosed of his life and character, the more intense and enduring will be the mournful sense of the loss to the nation by his too early death. The utterance of this feeling is again drawn forth by the ap-

pearance of a volume\* of his principal speeches and addresses on public occasions, collected and published "at the express desire and under the sanction of Her Majesty."

The greater number of these speeches have already been before the public in a less authoritative form,† but the present volume contains some remarkable and welcome additions. Of the speeches not included among those previously published by the Society of Arts, the most important is the Address delivered at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Aberdeen, in 1859. Some of the most striking portions of this Address were given in a previous number of "The Leisure Hour" (No. 444). The Address at the opening of the International Statistical Congress, at London, in 1860, is another important addition to the previous collection.

Of the wonderful sagacity and tact displayed in all the Prince's public addresses, and of the deep wisdom and varied knowledge brought to bear on every subject which he touched, it would be superfluous here to dwell. The editorial introduction to the present volume gives a just and discriminating analysis and exposition of the qualities by which these speeches are distinguished. Every intelligent reader will study them with admiring satisfaction; but there is another part of the volume, the perusal of which will touch the heart of the nation, and awaken the deepest feelings of respectful and affectionate sympathy. This portion of the memorial relates to a passage in the Prince's life, about which, at the time, there was some misunderstanding, the removal of which causes his name to shine with even greater lustre. It has generally been supposed that the Prince cherished the honourable ambition of succeeding the Duke of Wellington, as Commander-in-chief. It appears, from a memorandum detailing the facts of the case, that the Prince's own high feeling and good sense resisted the proposal strongly urged by the Duke himself. This memorandum is introduced by the following touching words from the Queen. Though suggested by the topic referred to, these words express, as no other words could do, the feelings which the Prince's whole life drew forth.

"In allowing this memorandum of the Prince to be published," we read, "the Queen is also actuated by another motive, in addition to those which have already been mentioned. It affords her Majesty a fitting opportunity for expressing, in the most clear and ample manner, that which for many years she has desired to express. During the Prince's life the Queen often longed to make known to the world the ever-present, watchful, faithful, invaluable aid which she received from the Prince Consort in the conduct of the public business. Her Majesty could hardly endure even then to be silent on this subject, and not to declare how much her reign owed to him. And now the Queen can no longer refrain from uttering what she has so long felt, and from proclaiming the irreparable loss to the public service, as well as to herself and to her family, which the Prince's death has occasioned. The position of her Majesty, for many years accustomed to this loving aid, and now suddenly bereft of it, can with difficulty be imagined to the full extent of its heaviness and its sadness. Desolate and sombre, as the Queen most deeply feels, lies the way before her—a path, however, of duty and of labour, which, relying on the loyal attachment and sympathy of

her people, she will, with God's blessing, strive to pursue; but where she fears her faltering steps will often show they lack the tender and affectionate support which, on all occasions, her Majesty was wont to receive from her beloved husband, the Prince."

It is unnecessary to give the details of the conferences and correspondence with the Duke of Wellington; but the concluding letter of the Prince will be read with deep interest:—

"My dear Duke—The Queen and myself have thoroughly considered your proposal to join the offices of Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General into one of a chief of the staff, with a view to facilitate the future assumption of the command of the army by myself. . . . The question whether it will be advisable that I should take the command of the army or not has been most anxiously weighed by me, and I have come to the conclusion that my decision ought entirely and solely to be guided by the consideration whether it would interfere with or assist my position of consort of the Sovereign, and the performance of the duties which this position imposes upon me.

"This position is a most peculiar and delicate one. While a female sovereign has a great many disadvantages in comparison with a king, yet, if she is married, and her husband understands and does his duty, her position, on the other hand, has many compensating advantages, and, in the long-run, will be found even to be stronger than that of a male sovereign. But this requires that the husband should entirely sink his own individual existence in that of his wife—that he should aim at no power by himself or for himself—should shun all ostentation—assume no separate responsibility before the public—but make his position entirely a part of hers—continually and anxiously watch every part of the public business, in order to be able to advise and assist her at any moment in any of the multifarious and difficult questions or duties brought before her, sometimes international, sometimes political, or social, or personal. As the natural head of her family, superintendent of her household, manager of her private affairs, sole confidential adviser in politics, and only assistant in her communications with the officers of the Government, he is besides the husband of the Queen, the tutor of the royal children, the private secretary of the Sovereign, and her permanent minister.

"How far would it be consistent with this position to undertake the management and administration of a most important branch of the public service, and the individual responsibility attaching to it—becoming an executive officer of the Crown, receiving the Queen's commands through her Secretaries of State, etc.? I feel sure that, having undertaken the responsibility, I should not be satisfied to leave the business and real work in the hands of another (the chief of the staff), but should feel it my duty to look to them myself. But while I should in this manner perform duties which, I am sure, every able general officer who has gained experience in the field would be able to perform better than myself, who have not had the advantage of such experience, most important duties connected with the welfare of the Sovereign would be left unperformed, which nobody could perform but myself. I am afraid, therefore, that I must discard the tempting idea of being placed in command of the British army."

By the publication of this letter a public benefit is conferred. The calm judgment, the generous self-denial, the devoted affection, and the high sense of duty displayed by the Prince in the whole transaction, will carry lessons to the humblest of her Majesty's subjects.

\* The Principal Speeches and Addresses of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort. John Murray.

† Addresses delivered on different public occasions by His Royal Highness the Prince Albert, President of the Society of Arts. People's Edition. Bell and Baily.

## Varieties.

**CURIOSITIES OF NATURAL HISTORY.**—The following letter to Mr. F. T. Buckland is from Mr. Couch, whose name is well known to naturalists:—

*Polperro.*

Dear Sir,—I am highly gratified at seeing your name in "The Leisure Hour," attached to a paper on the subject of "Frogs and Toads in Blocks of Coal;" and in consequence I send you the following account—which differs, indeed, very considerably from what you demand, but yet has some remote bearing on the subject. The information which I recorded in my Journal was derived immediately from the national schoolmaster of Lerryn, a few miles from this place, and himself a person of undoubted veracity. The thing occurred in the year 1857. If you know anything of Cornwall you will remember that our hedges are usually about six feet high, and of the same dimensions in thickness, formed of earth, on the top of which grow many sorts of trees. The hedge on which a stout oak tree was growing had partly fretted away, leaving a portion of the root projecting in an angular form. As it proved a hindrance to carts and wagons in passing along the root, it was cut off with a saw, and this piece of wood was thrown into the court yard of my informant. It was about six inches in diameter; and it lay exposed to the weather for three months, at which time the weather grew cold, and he cut it into pieces for the purpose of burning it; in doing which, to his great surprise he laid open a cavity in which he found a living toad, which after a short space he permitted to hop away. The toad was carefully examined, and no flaw or mark appeared outwardly, by which the animal could have entered. The explanation appears to me easy: there had been a crevice, through which the toad had entered for hybernation—that crevice had closed before the toad awoke—the skin of the tree healed—years passed, and all marks disappeared. The only surprising circumstance appears to be, that the toad continued alive for so long a time, as it had been shut out from air. I have heard of a bat which was found inclosed in a similar manner; but I am not able to rehearse the particulars.

You refer again to the alleged fact of a viper's swallowing her young—on which I will give you the evidence I have been able to collect: but permit me to say, that in my opinion the ground of your scepticism is not so good as you appear to think it. Philosophic inquirers are more frequently in their closets than in the open fields or solitary woods. I have myself seen many strange things whilst travelling through solitary places at every hour of the night, at all seasons of the year, and have made many observations of nature on the rocky coasts of the sea, amidst the roaring of the storm, which I should have known nothing of if I had at such times retired to the comfort of my parlour fire. The thing referred to must be the subject of casual observation, and cannot be subjected to repeated experiment. But to the point. A gentleman of unquestionable veracity, farming his own large estate, informed me that he had seen a viper, which, under alarm at his threatening presence, received several young ones into her mouth. But what, perhaps, you will deem still more to the purpose—a member of the legal profession, a competent naturalist—of middle age, and of undoubted veracity, informed me that a country labourer informed him that he saw a viper in a state of alarm receive some young vipers into her mouth; and, surprised at the circumstance, he contrived to slip a cord over the neck of the viper, and in this condition he brought it to this gentleman. The viper was opened, and the young ones were found in the stomach. I recorded this in my Journal at the time; and, such being the case, are not those persons to be excused, who venture to give credit to their informants, although they themselves have not witnessed the circumstance?

Allow me to say a word also on the subject of what is termed the sea serpent. It has been said that this story began among the Americans; but, so far is this from being the case, it was mentioned by Gesner three hundred years ago, who gives a plate of its supposed method of progression—in perpendicular undulations—not horizontal, as seen in the ordinary motions of serpents. Something much like it is also mentioned by Hans Egede, a Moravian missionary in Greenland, about 150 years since, as having been witnessed by himself. And, dropping the word serpent, what is there in the narratives which are before the public, that is incredible? That serpents inhabit the ocean we know. An example was presented to me, which was

caught in the Indian Ocean, and which I presented to a public museum. It is true, serpents are not in possession of a mane; but the dorsal fin of a Gymnetrus bears much resemblance to a mane; and when that fish comes to the surface, this fin may have been lifted and sunk again in portions, so as to warrant the remark, that the motion of the creature was undulatory. This supposition is at least much more plausible than that the error arose from cursory observation of a herd of porpoises pursuing each other. Until proved to the contrary, my conviction will remain, that it was a living creature which has been seen by so many observers, in the ocean, and that there is much probability of its having been some fish of the genus *Gymnetrus*.

I hope, dear sir, that there cannot be a reason why I should offer an apology for writing you on this subject.

I am, yours truly,

JONATHAN COUCH.

### REVENUE OF GREAT BRITAIN IN 1861 AND 1862:—

	Year ended Dec. 31, 1862.	Year ended Dec. 31, 1861.
	£	£
Customs . . . . .	24,036,000	23,774,000
Excise . . . . .	17,534,000	18,161,000
Stamps . . . . .	8,913,945	8,488,170
Taxes . . . . .	3,148,000	3,119,000
Property Tax . . . . .	11,104,000	9,962,000
Post Office . . . . .	3,600,000	3,500,000
Crown Lands . . . . .	298,521	293,479
Miscellaneous . . . . .	2,361,963	1,306,202
Totals . . . . .	70,996,429	68,603,851

**POPULATION OF BRITISH INDIA.**—According to the latest returns, the population of British India is as follows:—Under the Governor-General in Council, 14,165,161; Bengal, 41,898,608; North-West Provinces, 30,110,497; Punjab, 14,794,611; Madras, 23,127,855; Bombay, 11,937,512; making a grand total of 136,034,244 human beings.

**RIGHT USE OF TIME.**—There is nothing of which we are apt to be so lavish of as time, and about which we ought to be more solicitous, since without it we can do nothing in this world. Time is what we want most, but what, alas! we use worst; and for which God will certainly most strictly reckon with us, when time shall be no more. It is of that moment to us in reference to both worlds, that I can hardly wish any man better, than that he would seriously consider what he does with his time: how and to what end he employs it; and what returns he makes to God, his neighbour, and himself for it. Will he never have a ledger for this; this, the greatest wisdom and work of life?—*William Penn.*

**THE EXCELLENCY OF THE PSALMS.**—What is there necessary for me to know which the Psalms are not able to teach? They are to beginners an easy and familiar introduction, a mighty augmentation of all virtues and knowledge in such as are entered before, a strong conjunction to the most perfect among others. Heroical magnanimity, exquisite justice, grave moderation, exact wisdom, repentance unfeigned, unwearied patience, the mysteries of God, the sufferings of Christ, the terrors of wrath, the comforts of grace, the works of Providence over the world, and the promised joys of that world which is to come; all good necessarily to be either known, or done, or had, this one celestial fountain yieldeth. Let there be any grief or disease incident unto the soul of man, any wound or sickness named, for which there is not in this treasure-house a present comfortable remedy at all times ready to be found. Hereof it is that we covet to make the Psalms especially familiar unto all. This is the very cause why we iterate the Psalms oftener than any part of Scripture besides; the cause wherefore we inure the people together with their minister, and not the minister alone, to read them as other parts of Scripture he doth.—*Bishop Hooker.*

**PRAYER.**—When thou prayest for spiritual graces, let thy prayer be absolute; when for temporal blessings, add a clause of God's pleasure; in both, with faith and humiliation: so shalt thou, undoubtedly, receive what thou desirest, or more, or better. Never prayer rightly made, was made unheard; or heard, ungranted.—*Francis Quarles.*

\* \* A Coloured Illustration is issued with each Part of "The Leisure Hour" and "Sunday at Home," or with the first Number of each month. Price of each Part, 6d.; price of the Number, with Illustration, 2d.



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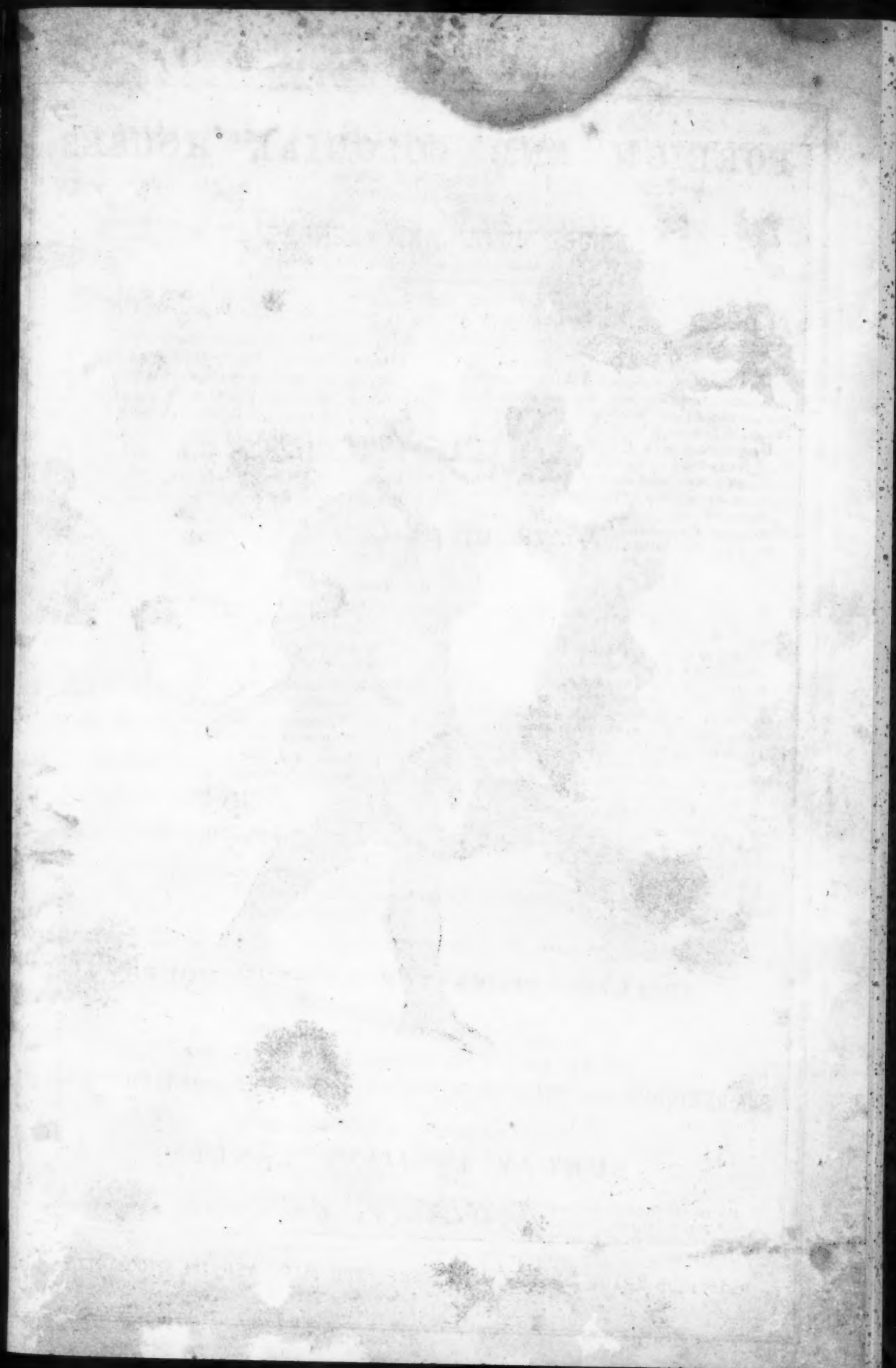
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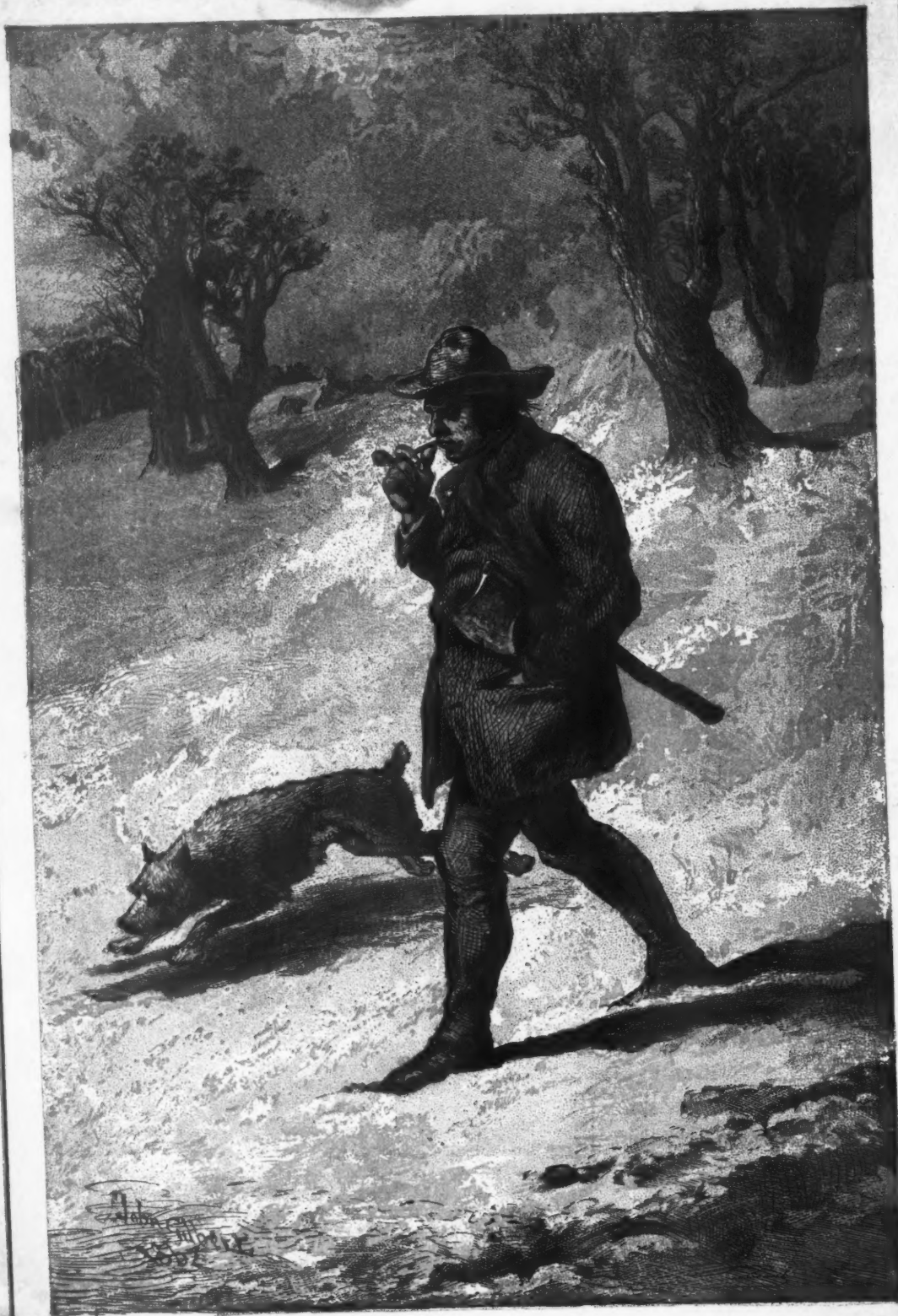












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